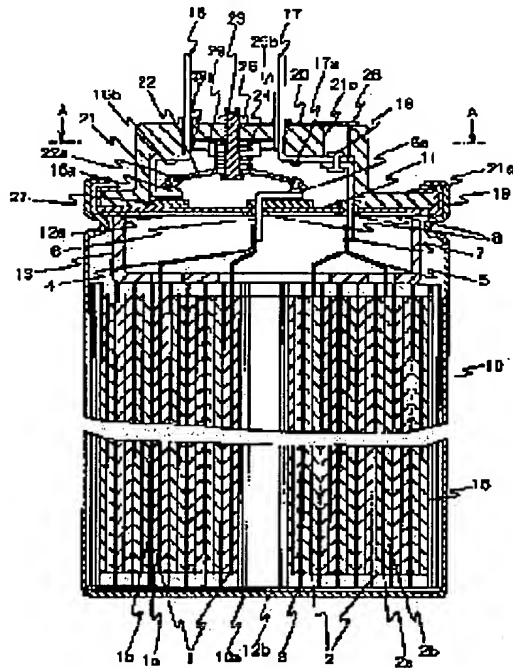


SECONDARY BATTERY



Abstract:

PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To provide a secondary battery that prevents its own abnormal temperature rise, overcharge, reverse charge and contact arc all for its improved safeness.

SOLUTION: This secondary battery is mounted on the sealing part of its battery case 10 with a safety device 20 having a terminal switchover circuit constituted of a thermally-actuated temperature switch 22 or pressure-driven pressure switch, which device is adapted to electrically disconnect from the electrodes upon

an abnormal temperature or pressure rise of the battery so as to short-circuit the positive and negative terminals and thus electrically disconnect the battery in such an abnormal state from the plural unit cells connected in series. The battery further has a Zener diode 29 interposed between the ends of the series circuit interconnecting the switch 22 and the battery. That constitution suppresses the generation of arc currents at a switchover of the contacts by the switch 22, which leads to a safe and reliable switchover.